

Chapter 1

Pg 1 **turns out** – happens that

Pg 1 **infield** – part of the baseball field

Pg 1 **spot** – see

Pg 2 **bleachers** – seats at the baseball game

Pg 2 **down the first-base line** – where in the stadium Wade is sitting

Pg 2 **third base** – part of the baseball field

Pg 2 **spy** – see

Pg 2 **bench** – where players wait for their turn

Pg 2 **fixed** – styled, arranged

Pg 2 **bands** – rubber bands

Pg 2 **marbles** – small round balls

Pg 2 **clinked** – knocked, banged

Pg 2 **on base** – part of the baseball field

Pg 2 **stepped up to the plate** – got ready to kick the ball (it was his turn)

Pg 2 **home** – part of the baseball field

Pg 2 **pitcher** – a player in baseball

Pg 2 **thrown out** – a baseball term (it means she didn't score a point)

Pg 3 **dusted off** – brushed dirt off

Pg 3 **palm** – the inside of her hand

Pg 3 **at second** – at second base

Pg 3 **jersey** – baseball shirt

Pg 3 **Sammy Sosa's number** – Sammy's player number

Pg 3 **Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire, Roger Maris** – famous baseball players

Pg 3 **rooting** – cheering, hoping

Pg 4 **fixing** – planning

Pg 4 **scolded** – punished, spoken harshly to

Pg 4 **baseline** – the edge of the baseball field

Pg 4 **Braves cap** – a baseball cap from the Atlanta Braves professional baseball team

Pg 4 **all of a sudden** – suddenly

Pg 4 **integrate** – mix black and white people

Pg 4 **Negro League** – before professional baseball allowed black players, there was a separate baseball league just for blacks (or Negroes), from 1920 – 1951.

Pg 5 **infield/home plate** – parts of the baseball field

Pg 5 **check on me** – make sure I was okay

Pg 5 **outfield** – part of the baseball field

Pg 5 **in a home** – a foster home (children without parents are placed in temporary homes)

Pg 5 **tucked us in** – put us to bed

Pg 6 **turn me loose** – let go of me

Pg 6 **says it** – says that Wade gives up legal custody (ownership) of his Easter & Ruby

Pg 6 **shortstop** – a baseball player position

Pg 6 **baserunning** – a baseball skill

Pg 6 **He stepped away . . .** – baseball signals from the coach to the players often include touching the arms, face, nose, etc. in a seemingly random order. Looks very weird.

Pg 6 **stay on base** – baseball term

Pg 6 **scrawny** – skinny, thin

Pg 6 **check y'all out** – look at you both, spend time with them

Pg 6 **fielding grounders** – a baseball skill (catching baseballs that are hit on the ground)

Pg 7 **at-risk youth** – kids who are at risk of getting into trouble (usually from unhealthy families)

Pg 7 **chain links** – part of a metal fence

Pg 7 **nudged** – pushed gently

Pg 7 **freak out** – go crazy

Pg 7 **y'all ain't going to . . .** – you two are not going to be in there (the foster home) for long

Pg 7 **adopt** – a couple will legally take Easter and Ruby as their own children

Pg 7 **hollered** – called out, yelled

Pg 8 **yank** – pull

Chapter 2

Pg 9 **comforter** – bed covering, bedspread

Pg 9 **propped** – rested, held up

Pg 10 **place** – place to live

Pg 10 **Bull-honky** – bullshit, I don't believe you

Pg 10 **I swear** – I promise, believe me

Pg 11 **silly** – funny, goofy, childish

Pg 11 **split up** – separated (Easter going to one home and Ruby going to another)

Pg 12 **passed out** – unconscious, a kind of deep sleep – not dead, but almost

Pg 12 **camouflage** – a print pattern on clothing so that the wearer blends in with the woods (like army soldiers sometimes wear)

Pg 12 **fluttered** – moved slightly

Pg 13 **screwed** – twisted

Pg 13 **concentrating** – thinking very hard

Pg 13 **knob** – doorknob (to open the door)

Pg 14 **floorboards squeaked** – floor made noise

Pg 14 **smear** – bit, smudge, spot

Pg 14 **got the hint** – understood that I wanted her to leave (A hint is a clue and Easter had hinted at Ruby by raising her eyebrows at her)

Pg 14 **arrest** – take her to jail

Pg 14 **take me and Ruby away** – send the girls to a foster home (away from their mom)

Pg 14 **zombie** – monster, a living dead person

Pg 15 **cheesy** – fake, goofy

Pg 15 **pitch black** – completely dark

Pg 15 **any sign** – any indication, hint, clue

Pg 17 **awfully hard** – very hard, a lot

Pg 17 **plastic deck chair** – an inexpensive (\$5) molded chair that can't be opened or closed

Pg 17 **mattresses** – the soft part of a bed

Pg 17 **corner store** – store on the corner of their street

Pg 17 **knot in my throat** – a tense feeling (like a lump) in her throat sensing bad things to come

Pg 18 **quarters** – for a pay phone

Pg 18 **911** – our national emergency phone number (pronounced nine-one-one)

Pg 18 **mist** – water vapor, like a cloud

Pg 18 **the lot** – the parking lot

Pg 18 **cord** – string, wire

Pg 18 **yanked** – pulled, ripped

Pg 18 **pool room** – room to play pool (normally this would mean a swimming pool, but here it refers to a pool table)

Pg 18 **messing with** – trying to make coffee

Pg 19 **cranked up** – turned on

Pg 19 **jukebox** – a machine that plays music when you put money into it

Chapter 3

Pg 21 **drifted off to sleep** – fell asleep without meaning to

Pg 21 **scooted** – moved (on her butt)

Pg 21 **frame** – the outside of the window

Pg 21 **windowsill** – the flat shelf at the bottom of a window that you can set a plant on

Pg 22 **crack of light** – very small amount of light

Pg 22 **stir** – move slightly, barely move at all

Pg 22 **peek** – look

Pg 22 **snuck** – past tense of sneak. To come in quietly without anyone knowing

Pg 22 **cologne** – perfume for men

Pg 23 **pitcher** – baseball player

Pg 23 **Gastonia Rangers** – a minor league baseball team – players hoping to become major league (big league) players some day

Pg 23 **big leagues** – professional baseball (the teams you see on TV, like the Detroit Tigers)

Pg 23 **mascot** – An employee wears a giant costume and goes around entertaining the kids watching a baseball game. Google “Paws Detroit Tigers” to see the Detroit Tigers’ mascot.

Pg 23 **high fives** – slapping hands in the air

Pg 23 **trotting** – walking quickly

Pg 23 **tripped** – fell

Pg 24 **fussing** – paying attention to them, trying to help, maybe getting irritated

Pg 24 **sopping-wet** – extremely wet

Pg 24 **Sammy Sosa** – a famous baseball player

Pg 24 **called up to Texas** – picked to play professional baseball for the Texas Rangers

Pg 24 **Michael Jordan** – a famous basketball player

Pg 24 **Food Lion** – grocery store in the south

Pg 24 **Sosa hit another one . . .** – Sammy Sosa hit another home run in his baseball game against the New York Giants (in his competition with Mark McGwire to hit the most home runs in one season)

Pg 25 **dorm** – housing for college students

Pg 25 **little place of our own** – apartment or some other small place to live

Pg 25 **sick** – tired

Pg 25 **cop/mess** – police officer/bother

Pg 26 **cuffs** – handcuffs (behind a person’s back so they can’t use their arms)

Pg 26 **my business** – my life

Pg 26 **how bad** – how much

Chapter 4

Pg 27 **the home** – Easter & Ruby’s foster home

Pg 27 **half convinced** – pretty sure, almost certain

Pg 28 **World Wide Web** – internet

Pg 28 **Oregon Trail** – a computer game

Pg 28 **just off** – near, next to

Pg 28 **stern** – serious, harsh

Pg 28 **meant business** – was serious

Pg 28 **messed with her** – tried to fool her, tricked her, made her angry, etc.

Pg 28 **A file cabinet slid open** – a file cabinet drawer was opened

Pg 29 **provision** – agreement, understanding

Pg 29 **visitation rights** – the right to visit his daughters (Easter and Ruby)

Pg 29 **guardian ad litem** – the person who is now (since their mom is dead) legally responsible for Easter and Ruby

Pg 30 **every step of the way** – all the time, whatever you do, wherever you go

Pg 30 **laid eyes** – look at, seen

Pg 30 **I ain’t in no kind of position to make** – I can’t make

Pg 31 **knob** – doorknob

Pg 31 **crept** – walked quietly, secretly

Pg 31 **board games** – games that come in a box and are played on a board, like Monopoly

Pg 31 **wasn’t nothing but four** – was only four years old

Pg 31 **swollen** – puffy (from crying)

Pg 32 **whispered** – talked quietly, as if in secret

Pg 32 **keep up with her** – walk as fast as her

Pg 32 **pocketbook** – purse

Pg 33 ***Termination of Parental Rights*** – Ending of the legal relationship between a parent and child. Ruby and Easter were no longer Wade's children

Pg 33 **crept** – walked very quietly (past tense of creep)

Pg 33 **slung** – hung, put, carried

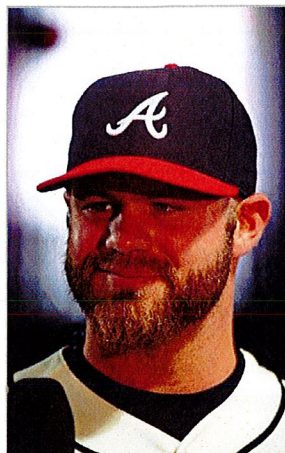
Pg 33 **flipped on** – turned on

Characters

Easter Quillby, age 12, sister of Ruby



Wade Chesterfield, Easter and Ruby's dad



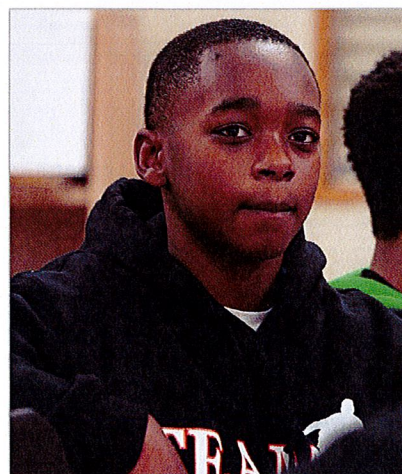
Corrine, Easter and Ruby's mom



Ruby Quillby, age 7, sister of Easter



Marcus, Easter's (boy)friend, sort of



Word List, *Dark Road*, pages 34-50

Chapter 5

Pg 34 **The old man** – My father (Pruitt's father)

Pg 34 **hit a fastball** – hit (with a baseball bat) a fast pitch (throw) in baseball

Pg 34 **Michelob Light** – beer

Pg 34 **T-ball tee** – a vertical pole to set a baseball on, making it easier to hit than a ball that's thrown

Pg 34 **yard sale** – a sale at someone's home; like a garage sale

Pg 34 **shop** – probably an auto repair shop, or a machine shop

Pg 34 **swig** – swallow

Pg 34 **busting** – breaking

Pg 34 **drain it** – drink it

Pg 34 **gleamed** – shined

Pg 34 **damp** – a little wet

Pg 34 **six-pack** – six beers sold in one box

Pg 34 **carport** – a garage without sides (common in warm climates)

Pg 35 **knocking back** – drinking, finishing

Pg 35 **union suit** – uniform identifying him as a member of a worker's union

Pg 35 **gripped** – held onto

Pg 35 **sissy** – a cowardly boy, like a girl (comes from "sister")

Pg 35 **sob** – cry

Pg 35 **stance** – the way he was standing

Pg 35 **clipped** – hit, but just barely

Pg 35 **slammed** – put down heavily, harshly

Pg 35 **stormed** – marched angrily

Pg 35 **plopped** – dropped

Pg 35 **squared** – lined up

Pg 36 **slammed shut** – closed loudly

Pg 36 **for meanness' sake** – to be mean

Pg 36 **Tomcat's** – a bar/restaurant

Pg 37 **squeeze** – convince (squeeze money out of them for a drink)

Pg 37 **Belmont/Stamley** – cities

Pg 37 **knocking back** – drinking

Pg 37 **Bud Lights/Dewar's** – beer/liquor

Pg 37 **on the rocks** – on ice

Pg 37 **hummed with** – made the noises of

Pg 37 **stint** – time working

Pg 37 **whiff** – smell

Pg 37 **balled up** – crumbled, squeezed

Pg 37 **shit hitting the fan** – something going wrong

Pg 38 **ring a bell** – make you remember

Pg 38 **nostrils** – nose

Pg 38 **quotation marks** – these: “

Pg 38 **floodlights** – parking lot lights

Pg 38 **vibrated** – shook, jiggled

Pg 39 **goatee** – male facial hair (a moustache) that surrounds the mouth

Pg 39 **cowlick** – a twist in the hair that can't be combed out (it just grows that way)

Pg 39 **minors** – minor leagues (baseball)

Pg 39 **back in the day** – a long time ago

Pg 40 **busted out** – began, started abruptly

Pg 40 **snickered** – laughed

Pg 40 **hoarse** – until he had no voice (because his throat was so sore from laughing)

Pg 40 **hit man** – a person who kills other people for money

Pg 40 **blackmail** – demanding money from someone in return for not revealing something really bad about them (it's not clear what Pruitt could reveal about the Boss)

Pg 40 **up front** – right now, before he starts

Pg 41 **The take** – the amount of money that was taken (stolen)

Pg 41 **scribbled** – wrote fast

Pg 41 **bound twenties** – wrapped stacks of twenty dollar bills (for example, a bundle of \$1,000 in twenties, all wrapped together)

Pg 41 **Food Lion** – a grocery store chain in the south

Pg 42 **house lights** – the “house” is the bar, so the lights in the bar were turned on or up

Pg 42 **Dumpster** – large trash bin

Pg 42 **flushed them out** – made them come out

Pg 42 **floorboard** – the floor of his truck

Pg 42 **V-8** – engine

Pg 42 **rumbled itself to life** – started

Pf 42 **Camaro** – type of car, very sporty

Pg 42 **backed it in and double-parked it** – backed it into a parking space and deliberately took up two parking spaces so no one could park close to him and possibly open their door into his car

Pg 42 **Pro Stock Louisville Sluggers** – baseball bats

Pg 42 **blurred** – faded, changed

Pg 43 **top paragraph** – Pruitt beat up Eddie’s car

Pg 43 **cul-de-sac** – a street that doesn’t go through to another street, you have to turn around

Pg 43 **.45mm Glock** – handgun

Pg 43 **dash** – short for dashboard of his car (the shelf across the front of the car)

Pg 43 **darted** – moved quickly

Pg 43 **blinds** – curtains, window coverings

Pg 43 **detached garage** – a garage that is not attached to the house

Pg 43 **Dense** – thick

Pg 43 **batting gloves** – gloves for baseball

Pg 43 **dead bolt** – a very strong door lock

Pg 43 **frame** – the door frame (the wood trim on the outside of the door)

Pg 43 **cleared the rooms** – went through each room making sure no one was inside

Chapter 6

Pg 45 **trailer park** – a subdivision (group) of mobile homes

Pg 45 **gravel drive** – stone driveway

Pg 45 **Late forties** – Evans is either 47, 48, or 49 years old

Pg 45 **extension cord** – a long electrical cord

Pg 45 **snaked** – ran, wound in a circular way, like a snake

Pg 45 **cable** – cable TV signal

Pg 45 **Cubs/Rockies** – baseball teams

Pg 45 **first inning** – the beginning of a baseball game

Pg 45 **Phrate** – short for Euphrates

Pg 45 **wrinkling** – scrunching up

Pg 45 **redneck-ass** – a redneck is a poor, unsophisticated person from the country

Pg 46 **shuffled** – walked slowly

Pg 46 **get out** – get out of jail

Pg 46 **spring training** – when baseball teams begin training for the upcoming season

Pg 46 **Wilkinson** – Wilkinson street

Pg 46 **on the outside** – out of jail

Pg 46 **flexed his biceps** – tightened his arm muscles (to show his strength)

Pg 46 **Still at it** – still body building, strength training, using drugs

Pg 46 **deca/testosterone** – illegal drugs to enhance muscle growth

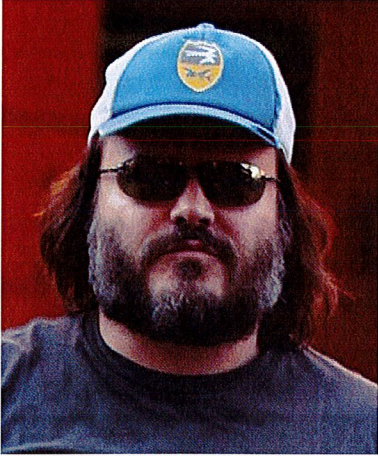
Pg 46 **at bat in the top of the first** – in the beginning of a baseball game

Pg 46 **hooked up** – attached to

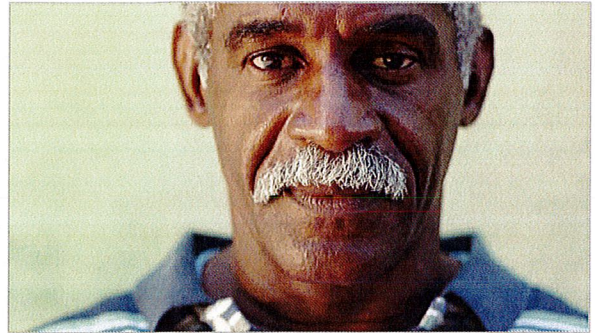
Pg 46	shriveled – dried up	Pg 48	pointless – meaningless
Pg 46	My way or the highway – an expression that means “do what I say or leave”	Pg 48	trotted out – ran out (to begin the game)
Pg 47	sermon – the main message, given by the preacher or minister, in a church service	Pg 48	bag of tricks – drugs
Pg 47	Sosa hit one out against Kile – Baseball player Sammy Sosa hit a home run (a ball that goes out of the playing field) from a ball thrown by the pitcher, a baseball player named Kile	Pg 48	ol’ – old (as in ‘good old’)
Pg 47	breast pocket – a pocket on his shirt on his chest	Pg 48	Vicodin . . . – drug names
Pg 47	‘eighty-seven, ‘eighty-eight – 1987, 1988 (the years Phrate played baseball with Sammy Sosa)	Pg 49	Dilaudid – a drug
Pg 47	quick hands/nice swing – baseball skills	Pg 49	dose – serving
Pg 47	crushing it – doing well, playing ball with	Pg 49	gone clean – stopped using drugs
Pg 47	dudes – guys, men	Pg 49	OD’d – died of an overdosed of drugs
Pg 47	trip – fantasy	Pg 49	doctor’s kit – bag of drugs
Pg 47	getting even – getting revenge, getting back at, punishing	Pg 49	under a gym bag . . . – in the truck
Pg 47	screwed – wronged	Pg 50	blinds – curtains
Pg 48	drag – inhale (in breath)	Pg 50	syringes – needles (for giving shots)
Pg 48	exhale – out breath	Pg 50	multidose vials – containers with more than one dose (shot) in them
Pg 48	turn myself in to the cops – confess to the police	Pg 50	drawing out – sucking the drug out of the vial (container) and into the needle
Pg 48	juice my players – give his baseball players illegal drugs to make them stronger	Pg 50	sterile – clean, germ-free
Pg 48	calculated – known, mathematically knowable	Pg 50	glute – short for gluteous maximus, or butt
Pg 48	Knights – a minor league baseball team	Pg 50	wincing – a look of pain
Pg 48	inject – give them drugs through a shot	Pg 50	glassy – like glass, not seeing
Pg 48	messed up – wrong	Pg 50	put it out – extinguished the cigarette so that it was no longer burning
Pg 48	stepping into the batter’s box – playing baseball (not knowing how it’s going to turn out)	Pg 50	ashtray – a ceramic dish for putting out cigarettes
Pg 48	deadbeat/bum – loser, worthless person	Pg 50	lollid – rolled lazily
Pg 48	headhunter – person who tells the police about a criminal, helps them find him/her		
Pg 48	The Cubs had . . . – the game went on		

Characters

Pruitt, Wade's former baseball teammate, looking for Wade to kill him



Euphrates (Phrate) Evans, former baseball coach, knows both Wade and Pruitt



Main characters:

Easter Quillby, age 12, sister of Ruby



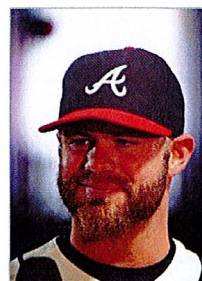
Boss, also Tommy Broughton, had money stolen from him



Ruby Quillby, age 7, sister of Easter



Wade Chesterfield, father of Easter and Ruby



Word List, *Dark Road*, pages 51-76

Chapter 7

Pg 51 **54** – the number of home runs Sammy Sosa had hit so far

Pg 51 **Magic Markers** – brand name for colored pens for drawing

Pg 51 **seventh inning** – game

Pg 52 **Y'all like each other** – Do you two (Easter and Marcus) like each other (romantically)

Pg 52 **pins and needles** – nervous

Pg 52 **fish** – get

Pg 52 **rag** – cloth for cleaning

Pg 52 **pukey** – smelly, disgusting, like vomit

Pg 52 **bulletin board** – a wall hanging where messages and photos can be pinned

Pg 52 **cafeteria** – lunch room

Pg 52 **popped it up** – kicked the ball high

Pg 52 **made it to first** – ran to first base (in the kickball game) – a good thing!

Pg 52 **Dang** – a southern expression of impatience or anger, like “shit” or “darn”

Pg 53 **first paragraph** – Easter wasn't playing kickball well because she wasn't focused, so Serena put her way out in the outfield, where not much baseball action happens

Pg 53 **tank top** – summer T-shirt with no sleeves

Pg 53 **the fence** – the fence surrounding the school yard where they are playing kickball

Pg 53 **weird** – unusual

Pg 55 **headlights** – front lights on a car
(the back lights are taillights)

Pg 55 **cursing** – swearing, mad

Pg 55 **on my mind** – to think about

Pg 55 **division** – math

Pg 55 **covers** – bedspread (bed covering)

Pg 55 **cholera** – a disease

Pg 56 **soundly** – deeply, completely

Pg 56 **popped right open** – opened immediately

Pg 56 **tufts** – bunches, groups, piles

Pg 57 **paint-flecked** – a “fleck” is a small amount of something

Pg 57 **holler** – yell, call

Pg 57 **hardheaded** – stubborn, unwilling to go

Pg 57 **convincing** – talking into, persuading

Pg 57 **turn him loose** – let go of him

Pg 58 **saggy** – hanging down, loose

Pg 58 **crawled** – climbed, gone

Pg 58 **armpits** – the area under the arms

Pg 58 **passenger's side** – the side of the car where the rider (the passenger) sits

Pg 58 **whiff** – smell

Pg 59 **soaked** – gone all the way, saturated

Pg 59 **pale** – white, colorless

Chapter 8

Pg 60 **crib** – baby bed

Pg 60 **start the first grade** – school

Pg 61 **guardian ad litem** – a person who is legally responsible for a child under 18 years old, but who is not the child's parent, usually named by a judge

Pg 61 **feel moved** – are inspired, want to

Pg 61 **that will** – that desire, that motivation

Pg 61 **addicted** – attached to (like drugs or alcohol)

Pg 61 **chambers** – a judge's office

Pg 61 **cigarette butt** – the end of the cigarette

Pg 61 **stubbed it out** – crunched it with his foot to put it out (extinguish the fire)

Pg 61 **swing** – drive

Pg 61 **Town Car** – an expensive car

Pg 61 **reserved spot** – parking spot with the Judge's name on it so no one else parks there

Pg 61 **nod** – head movement (to acknowledge Brady Weller’s presence)

Pg 61 **loose change** – coins

Pg 61 **suspenders** – two straps that men wear to hold their pants up (they go over the shoulders)

Pg 61 **sports coat** – a casual, indoor men’s jacket

Pg 61 **fished** – got, found

Pg 61 **clipped off** – cut

Pg 62 **puff** – inhaled the cigar

Pg 62 **bastards raise hay** – idiot causes problems

Pg 62 **glinting** – shining

Pg 62 **bald** – hairless

Pg 62 **from where I’m sitting** – in my opinion

Pg 62 **talked some damn sense** – told you the way things really are

Pg 62 **the day after** – the day after he was arrested

Pg 63 **shitty situation** – bad condition

Pg 63 **interlaced** – together

Pg 63 **fixing to** – getting ready to

Pg 63 **country-club housewives** – women married to rich men

Pg 63 **can’t take** – can’t handle (emotionally)

Pg 63 **their rights to lay claim** – their legal right to have

Pg 64 **getting ahold** – calling

Pg 64 **officer** – police officer, policeman

Pg 64 **patrol car** – police car

Pg 64 **unmarked** – police cars that look like regular cars (no police markings on them)

Pg 64 **Sandy’s** – Weller’s old police partner

Pg 64 **evidence** – things from the scene of a crime that might be important in figuring out the crime

Pg 64 **emblem** – logo identifying the Safe-at-Home company

Pg 65 **kidnapped** – taken without your consent or agreement

Pg 65 **the force** – the police force, or police team/organization

Pg 65 **bleary-eyed** – sleepy (eyes half shut)

Pg 65 **responding officer** – the police officer who got the initial call about the crime

Pg 65 **dust** – powder

Pg 65 **plainclothes** – a police officer wearing regular clothing, not a police officer’s uniform

Pg 65 **pulled some prints** – got some fingerprints

Pg 66 **scared of shit** – scared of anything

Pg 66 **flinch** – move, even just a tiny bit

Pg 66 **dug** – got

Pg 66 **cards** – business cards

Pg 67 **rattled** – scared

Pg 67 **Charlotte** – a larger city in North Carolina (the state they’re in)

Pg 67 **armored car** – a vehicle (usually more like a truck than a car) that is bullet-proof. These are used to deliver money to banks and stores, etc.

Pg 67 **drop** – delivery

Pg 67 **Feds** – Federal (national, as opposed to state) police officers

Pg 67 **all over you** – watching him closely

Pg 67 **passed** – spent or exchanged, making it hard to trace

Pg 68 **casino** – place for gambling

Pg 68 **security cameras** – cameras in the ceilings of the casino that show what people in the casino are doing

Pg 68 **NASA** – National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Pg 68 **passing big bills** – spending large dollars (like \$1,000 dollar bills)

Pg 68 **kicking our ass** – beating us

Pg 68 **take this one off your hands** – take care of (solve) this case for you

Pg 68 **on the books** – on his list of cases to solve
Pg 68 **jingled** – jiggled (so they made a noise)
Pg 68 **paranoid** – afraid
Pg 68 **up in your face** – controlling, authoritative

Chapter 9

Pg 69 **invoices** – bills
Pg 69 **systems** – Safe-at-Home security systems
Pg 69 **slimmer** – less likely
Pg 69 **deadbeat** – loser
Pg 69 **sink in** – mean something to him (sink into his brain)
Pg 70 **drifting** – going, looking
Pg 70 **Indian Princess tribe** – a girls' club
Pg 70 **earning colored feathers** – a prize for completing tasks/crafts in the girls' club
Pg 70 **saddle horn** – part of a horse's saddle (or seat)
Pg 70 **camp hand** – camp worker
Pg 70 **reins** – ropes to lead a horse
Pg 70 **amphitheater** – outdoor concert area
Pg 70 **empties** – empty beer cans
Pg 71 **Cracker Barrel** – restaurant
Pg 71 **leafed** – looked casually
Pg 71 **sloppy** – messy
Pg 71 **sneakers** – shoes
Pg 71 **baseball card** – collectible (and tradeable) cards with one player's picture on each
Pg 71 **vanity** – self-made
Pg 72 **windup: a lefty** – start (of his throw): a left-handed pitcher
Pg 72 **farm team** – minor league team that supplies players to a big league team
Pg 72 **home jersey** – the uniform a team wears when it is playing at home

Pg 72 **stats** – short for statistics (like height, weight, baseball statistics)
Pg 72 **mug shot** – the photo taken when a person is arrested, showing just their face
Pg 72 **spotted with whiskers** – covered here and there with facial hair
Pg 72 **DUI** – Driving (while) Under (the) Influence (of alcohol) – this is illegal
Pg 73 **dresser** – furniture (to hold clothes)
Pg 73 **dusk** – the beginning of darkness outside
Pg 74 **ESPN** – a sports TV channel
Pg 74 **\$250 on him** – a bet of \$250
Pg 74 **tramp** – walk
Pg 74 **shell casings** – the outside of bullets (what's left after they've been shot)
Pg 74 **God knows where** – nobody knows where
Pg 74 **rearview mirror** – the car mirror that's attached to the windshield (to see behind you)
Pg 74 **nodded off** – gone to sleep
Pg 74 **switch to days** – change to day shift (work)
Pg 75 **get to the bottom of** – figure out, solve
Pg 75 **I was either . . .** – never did anything right
Pg 75 **popped** – swallowed, took
Pg 75 **knocked them back** – drank
Pg 75 **Y** – short for YMCA, a fitness center
Pg 75 **dimmer** – less bright, darker, weaker
Pg 75 **pulled in** – drove the car into the driveway
Pg 75 **paramedics** – medical workers who ride in an ambulance
Pg 75 **responding officers** – police officers who responded to the call for help
Pg 76 **sued** – a legal action to get money for a criminal act
Pg 76 **passed out** – became unconscious, slept
Pg 76 **civil trial** – legal proceeding, court of law
Pg 76 **stumbled** – walked clumsily, like he was drunk

Pg 76 **station** – police station

Pg 76 **outranked them** – had more seniority than they did (was their boss)

Pg 76 **jury found against me** – I was found guilty

Pg 76 **force** – police force

Pg 76 **stark** – harsh, glaring, difficult

Pg 76 **rifts** – breaks, tears, problems

Pg 76 **boulder** – huge rock

Pg 76 **ripples** – waves

Brady Weller, 46 years old, former police officer who is volunteering to look for Easter and Ruby

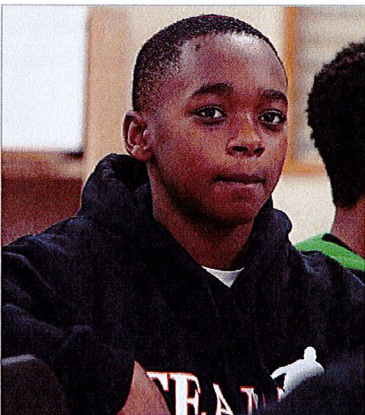


Characters

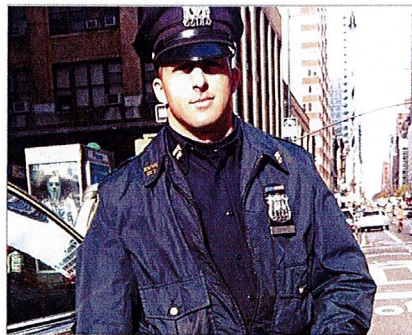
Easter Quillby



Marcus, Easter's friend



Sandy, Brady's partner on the police force before Brady was fired



Helen Crawford, the woman who managed the foster home where Easter and Ruby live



Word List, *Dark Road*, pg. 77-125

Chapter 10

- Pg 77 **Waffle House** – restaurant
- Pg 77 **Myrtle Beach** – city in South Carolina
- Pg 77 **for my own sake** – for me
- Pg 78 **garage** – auto repair place
- Pg 79 **flipflops** – summer sandals
- Pg 79 **winked** – closed one eye quickly
- Pg 79 **cursive** – a writing style
- Pg 80 **headrest** – part of the front seats of the car, for resting your head
- Pg 80 **sighed** – breathed out, long and slow

Chapter 11

- Pg 82 **floating** – staying on top of the water
- Pg 82 **raft** – something to sit on that floats
- Pg 82 **goggles** – glasses for swimming
- Pg 82 **double beds** – “double” is a bed size
- Pg 82 **hit** – go to
- Pg 83 **pier** – walkway that goes into the water
- Pg 83 **tube** – a cylinder, like a straw
- Pg 83 **Confederate flag** - the flag flown by the southern states before the Civil War, when slavery of blacks was legal and common in the south.
- Pg 83 **puffs** – breaths of air
- Pg 84 **wrapper** – the paper around his hamburger

Chapter 12

- Pg 85 **boardwalk** – sidewalk along the shore
- Pg 85 **bikini** – a type of bathing suit
- Pg 85 **Ferris wheel** – a carnival ride (looks like a giant “O”)
- Pg 85 **yanked** – pulled hard on
- Pg 85 **arcade** – game room

- Pg 85 **ride** – carnival ride (like roller coasters, etc)
- Pg 85 **park** – the carnival grounds or area
- Pg 86 **tilt-a whirl** – a spinning carnival ride
- Pg 86 **haunted house** – a pretend house, dark inside, with “ghosts” and other things to scare you. Usually you walk through it, but this time it’s a ride.
- Pg 86 **snapped** – tore
- Pg 86 **polo shirts** – expensive casual shirts
- Pg 87 **bar** – a safety feature of the ride’s car
- Pg 87 **hissed** – made an “sssss” noise
- Pg 87 **scratchy** – poor audio quality
- Pg 87 **sheet** – a large cloth, like for a bed
- Pg 87 **smack** – hit
- Pg 87 **rocked** – moved
- Pg 87 **wormed** – wiggled, squirmed
- Pg 87 **lap belt** – safety restraint (like a seat belt)
- Pg 87 **operator** – a worker at the ride
- Pg 88 **busted out** – started
- Pg 88 **tugged** – pulled
- Pg 89 **backed** – moved backward
- Pg 89 **sniffed** – breathed in through her nose (a typical crying behavior)
- Pg 89 **fistfuls** – hands full
- Pg 89 **cupped** – put her hands together like a cup
- Pg 89 **palms** – the insides of her hands
- Pg 89 **dump** – drop, put
- Pg 90 **cinched** – pulled tight
- Pg 90 **drawstring** – the string at her waist holding her shorts up
- Pg 90 **tugging** – pulling
- Pg 90 **Pac-Man** – a computer game
- Pg 90 **coin slot** – the opening on a pay phone where you put your coins in
- Pg 90 **dial tone** – the sound a phone makes when it is ready to be dialed (before cell phones)

Pg 90 **line** – phone line, connection

Pg 91 **receiver** – the part of old phones that you hold in your hand

Pg 91 **hung up** – ended the phone call

Pg 91 **clinked** – dropped

Pg 91 **change return** – the place on a pay phone where your change (coins) comes out

Pg 91 **roller coaster** – a ride at the fair

Pg 91 **pitching cage** – a place where people can practice their pitching (throwing) skills

Pg 91 **rubber** – solid, springy surface

Pg 91 **catcher squatting** – the baseball player whose job it is to catch pitches; squatting is balancing on your toes with your knees bent

Pg 91 **home plate** – part of the baseball field

Pg 92 **forty-four/forty-seven** – miles per hour

Pg 92 **squinted** – almost closed

Pg 92 **turn** – time

Pg 92 **sagged** – drooped, overhung, spilled over

Pg 92 **stool** – chair without arms or back

Pg 92 **give it a shot** – take a turn

Pg 92 **fished** – got

Pg 92 **old man** – dad (in this case, him – Wade)

Pg 92 **what kind of arm** – how good their throwing arm is; how well they can throw a ball

Pg 92 **gestured** – pointed

Pg 93 **scooped** – picked

Pg 93 **spun around** – turned around quickly

Pg 93 **wad** – bunch (in this case, a large roll or circle of dollar bills)

Pg 93 **reared** – stretched her arm behind her

Pg 93 **lobbed** – threw (not hard, kind of high)

Pg 93 **arced** – curved (in the air)

Pg 93 **nudged** – gently poked

Pg 93 **sling some heat** – throw hard

Pg 93 **bring the heat** – throw it hard

Pg 94 **smacked** – hit hard

Pg 94 **palm** – the inside of her hand

Pg 94 **mitt** – the catcher's glove

Pg 94 **took it in the mask** – got hit in the face (catcher's wear a face mask to protect them)

Pg 94 **bumping** – touching

Pg 94 **fists** – hands closed tightly

Pg 95 **concentrate** – think hard, focus

Pg 95 **strike** – a good throw

Pg 96 **fished** – got

Pg 96 **unfastening** – taking off

Pg 96 **what to make of** – what to think about

Pg 96 **You got this** – You can do this!

Pg 96 **squeezed** – held tightly

Pg 96 **cap** – baseball cap (on his head)

Pg 96 **cupped** – made a "C" with his hand

Pg 96 **his grip** – how he's holding the ball

Pg 96 **snorted out a laugh** – laughed through his nose

Pg 97 **athlete** – someone who plays sports

Pg 97 **belly** – stomach (probably large)

Pg 97 **clean-shaven** – had shaved his face

Pg 97 **sagged** – drooped, hung down

Pg 97 **windup** – beginning part of his pitch

Pg 97 **flashed** – blinked, showed quickly

Pg 97 **You've got a good arm** – you can pitch well

Pg 97 **helicopter blades** – the long flat things on top of a helicopter that spin

Pg 98 **froze** – stopped moving

Pg 98 **scarecrow** – clothes on a stick intended to scare crows (birds) away from gardens

Pg 98 **cartoon** – animated film

Pg 98 **come loose** – become disconnected

Pg 98 **freeze** – stop; pause

Pg 98 **bust through** – break through, go through

Pg 98 **all he had** – everything; tried as hard as he could

Pg 98 **batter** – baseball player (ready to hit Wade's pitches)

Pg 98 **massaged** – rubbed (like it hurt)

Pg 98 **whipped** – turned very fast

Pg 100 **strike/ball** – good/bad pitch

Pg 100 **snatched** – grabbed; took

Pg 100 **no trouble** – any trouble

Pg 100 **robbing** – stealing from

Pg 100 **holding up** – robbing (see above)

Pg 100 **one bit** – at all

Pg 100 **get away with it** – not get caught (by the police) – *if* they had robbed a bank

Pg 100 **spitting** – throwing with his mouth

Pg 100 **no difference** – any difference

Chapter 13

Pg 101 **Poncho/sombrero** – traditional Mexican clothing

Pg 101 **pulled up** – brought his car

Pg 101 **blazer** – suit coat

Pg 101 **a/c** – air conditioning

Pg 101 **manila** – a large, office-type envelope that is light tan in color

Pg 101 **Depends** – Perhaps; maybe

Pg 101 **booth** – a type of restaurant table

Pg 101 **shot** – played

Pg 101 **wavy** – curvy

Pg 101 **asphalt** – street

Pg 101 **nacho** – corn

Pg 102 **You shouldn't have** – you shouldn't have gone to all this trouble just for me (sarcasm)

Pg 102 **evidence** – clues in a criminal investigation

Pg 102 **rubber glove** – so his fingerprints wouldn't get on the card

Pg 102 **Sosa** – famous baseball player

Pg 102 **perp's** – perpetrator's (in this case, Wade)

Pg 102 **cop** – admit

Pg 102 **prints** – fingerprints

Pg 103 **breaking the law** – doing something illegal

Pg 103 **pulling anybody off . . .** taking anyone (any police officers) off the investigation into the missing money

Pg 103 **Myrtle Beach PD** – Myrtle Beach Police Department

Pg 103 **alert** – notice; advertisement asking people to call the police if they see Wade and the girls

Pg 103 **contractor** – builder; worker

Pg 103 **snatching** – grabbing; taking

Pg 103 **sealed** – closed

Pg 103 **breast** – shirt

Pg 103 **on file** – in the police records

Pg 103 **Chesterfield** – Wade's last name

Pg 104 **check** – bill (for their lunch)

Pg 104 **You got anything out** – Have you sent out information to other policemen about Wade's car

Pg 104 **highway patrol** – police who drive up and down a state's highways

Pg 104 **tooling** – driving

Pg 104 **pull over** – stop

Pg 104 **manpower** – policemen and women

Pg 104 **leads** – clues

Pg 104 **nearly abandoned** – almost empty

Pg 104 **strip mall** – a grouping of stores, in a straight line that parallels the street

Pg 104 **spelled out** – written

Pg 105 **reception** – entry; entrance

Pg 105 **Jessica** – Brady's daughter

Pg 105 **saddle horn** – part of a horse's saddle

Pg 105 **caller ID** – screen on a phone that shows the phone number of the person calling you

Pg 105 **tone** – voice
Pg 105 **formal** – serious
Pg 106 **line** – phone line; phone connection
Pg 106 **figured** – guessed; decided
Pg 106 **cop** – police officer
Pg 106 **family court** – the part of our legal system that helps children and families
Pg 106 **end on mute** – phone on silence

Chapter 14

Pg 107 **spot** – parking spot/place
Pg 107 **car garage** – car repair store
Pg 107 **scanned** – looked over
Pg 107 **Ford F-150** – pickup truck
Pg 107 **bed** – the back part of a pickup
Pg 108 **hunkered** – slid; got
Pg 108 **untinted** – clear (not dark)
Pg 108 **dart** – move quickly
Pg 108 **interlocked** – folded together
Pg 108 **weird** – unusual; strange
Pg 108 **Sun Drop/Cheerwine** – sodas?
Pg 109 **divvied** – divided; separated
Pg 109 **Carpentry, etc.** – building work
Pg 109 **sip** – small drink; swallow
Pg 109 **swank** – wealthy; rich
Pg 109 **hanging drywall** – putting up the walls
Pg 109 **mud it, tape it** – part of the process of making a wall in a house
Pg 109 **Y'all didn't hang it** – you guys (Lane's company) didn't hang the drywall
Pg 110 **pretty handy** – very good at fixing things and building things
Pg 110 **The pieces** – pieces of drywall
Pg 110 **sheets** – sheets of drywall

Pg 110 **He'd beat that . . .** – He made a mess of that drywall trying to get it nailed together
Pg 110 **maze** – puzzle
Pg 110 **outlets** – plugs (for electricity)
Pg 110 **Gave me the creeps** – made me feel very uneasy
Pg 110 **pissed** – angry
Pg 110 **pallet** – large square piece of wood
Pg 110 **pry bar** – a tool used to open things
Pg 110 **jerking** – pulling
Pg 111 **crook** – thief, criminal
Pg 111 **hillbilly Mafia** – a criminal group (Mafia) made up of uneducated southern men (hillbillies)
Pg 111 **Don Corleone** – head of the Mafia
Pg 111 **turning over evidence** – giving evidence to police to help them solve crimes
Pg 111 **buddy up** – be friends with
Pg 111 **trudging** – swimming slowly
Pg 111 **honestly** – legally (without doing something criminal to get that much money)
Pg 111 **armored car heist** – robbery (heist) of a well-protected vehicle that carries lots of money
Pg 112 **freaked out** – went crazy
Pg 112 **long gone** – far away
Pg 112 **sized up** – considered, look at
Pg 112 **pounds on Chesterfield** – you are 30, 40 pounds heavier than Wade Chesterfield
Pg 113 **held you up** – pointed the gun at you
Pg 113 **lame** – bad, hard to believe
Pg 113 **duffel bag** – like a gym bag, a fabric bag
Pg 133 **gear** – stuff, things
Pg 113 **zip ties** – plastic “rope”
Pg 113 **duct tape** – very strong tape
Pg 113 **tumble** – fall
Pg 114 **stash of kiddy porn** – pile of child pornography (sex videos)

Pg 114 **inheritance** – money received when someone dies

Pg 114 **will being contested** – fighting over an inheritance

Pg 114 **suspect** – think, believe

Pg 114 **ratting him out** – telling the police about the money

Pg 114 **broke into** – entered without permission

Pg 114 **break-in** – illegal entering of his house

Pg 115 **mixed up** – involved

Pg 115 **and all that** – and everything else

Pg 115 **drag me in** – take me to the police station

Pg 115 **testify** – talk to the police

Pg 115 **stupid shit** – dumb things

Pg 116 **weird** – strange

Pg 116 **balled up** – rolled, folded

Pg 116 **blows over** – goes away, is forgotten

Pg 116 **tear out of** – leave quickly

Pg 116 **lot** – parking lot

Pg 117 **cordless** – phone

Pg 117 **What's up?** – What do you want?

Pg 117 **call in the cavalry** – tell the police officers who are working on this case to stop

Pg 117 **pad** – pad of paper; something to write on

Pg 118 **Jury's still out** – we still don't know

Pg 118 **Case solved** – investigation completed

Pg 118 **leaked** – told

Pg 118 **busted . . .** – took this case and solved it

Pg 118 **Sarge** – short for Sergeant (his boss)

Pg 118 **move on** – make contact with, start working on

Pg 118 **onto him** – knows what he did (stole the money)

Pg 118 **hit the road** – leave town

Pg 118 **swing** – try

Pg 118 **in on this** – a part of this investigation

Chapter 15

Pg 119 **dropped us** – left us, taken us to

Pg 120 **primer** – the paint that goes under the final paint (usually white or light blue)

Pg 120 **tractor trailers** – the back part of big semi trucks (the part of the truck that holds all of the items it is transporting)

Pg 120 **make up your minds** – decide

Pg 120 **counter** – the place to order

Pg 120 **step out** – go outside

Pg 121 **yanked** – pulled hard

Pg 121 **flipped through the channels** – looked through different channels (on TV)

Pg 121 **packet** – stack, pile

Pg 121 **stuffed** – put, shoved

Pg 122 **overalls** – clothes

Pg 122 **Indian-style** – criss-cross

Pg 122 **headboard** – wooden board at the front of a bed, behind the pillows

Pg 122 **peephole** – tiny window in a door

Pg 122 **cracked** – opened the door just a little bit

Pg 122 **undid** – opened

Pg 123 **disguises** – costumes so they won't be recognized by the police

Pg 123 **dye** – color

Pg 123 **fogged over** – gray with steam

Pg 123 **Cardinals** – professional baseball team

Pg 124 **put it** – say it

Pg 124 **nightgowns** – clothes for sleeping

Pg 124 **wadded up** – scrunched, in a ball

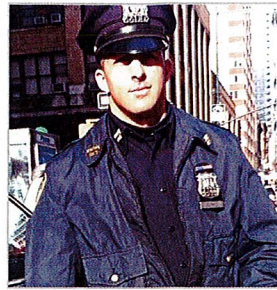
Pg 125 **corners of my eyes** – sides of my eyes

Pg 125 **whiskers** – beard

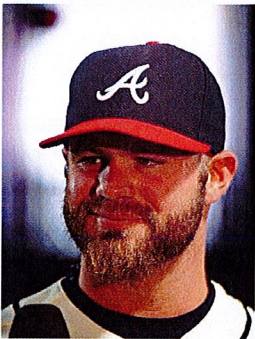
Easter and Ruby, sisters



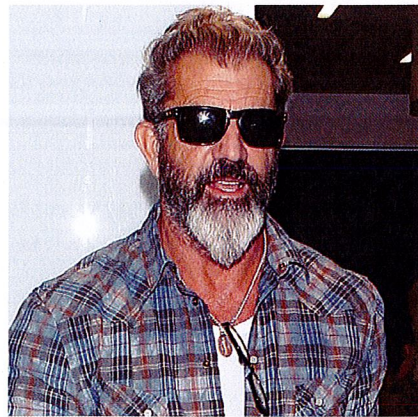
Sandy, Brady's former police partner



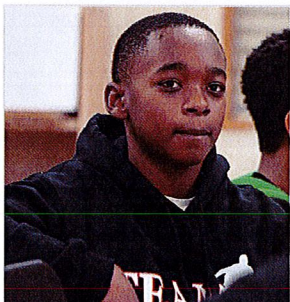
Wade, Easter & Ruby's dad



Lane Kelly, Wade's former boss (was with Wade when he found the money)



Marcus, Easter's (boy)friend



Tommy Broughton ("boss" whose money was stolen by Wade from the walls in his basement)



Brady Weller, volunteer



Word List, *Dark Road*, pg. 126-157

Chapter 16

Pg 126 **foot** – bottom

Pg 126 **Louisville Slugger's barrel** – baseball bat

Pg 126 **footboard** – end of the bed

Pg 126 **pistol** – gun

Pg 126 **spare** – extra

Pg 126 **cocked the hammer** – got the gun ready to fire

Pg 127 **bulb** – light bulb

Pg 127 **pinning** – holding

Pg 127 **Adam's apple** – the bump that sticks out on the front of a man's neck

Pg 127 **whimpered** – cried softly

Pg 127 **rustling** – making noise

Pg 127 **covers** – bed covering

Pg 127 **pitch black** – completely dark

Pg 127 **grazing** – barely touching

Pg 127 **blinding** – very, very bright

Pg 127 **bound** – tied

Pg 128 **fastened** – tied

Pg 128 **duct-taped** – strapped to the chair with a super strong tape

Pg 128 **jockeys** – men's underwear brand

Pg 128 **sagged** – drooped, fell

Pg 128 **table saw** – large electric saw

Pg 128 **grunt** – a low animal-like sound

Pg 128 **blotting out** – blocking

Pg 129 **zip ties** – plastic strings

Pg 129 **safety guard** – part of the saw that protects hands from getting hurt by the blade

Pg 129 **guttural whine** – machine sound

Pg 129 **melded** – blended, mixed

Pg 129 **indistinguishable** – unable to be separated

Pg 129 **clenched themselves** – were held

Pg 129 **index finger** – first finger

Pg 129 **pried loose** – forcefully pulley away

Pg 129 **powered down** – turned off

Pg 129 **fetal** – baby (in its mother's womb)

Pg 130 **sucked** – took

Pg 130 **framing hammer** – a tool for pounding nails into wood

Pg 130 **toe** – front

Pg 130 **skittering** – sliding, slipping

Pg 130 **floodlights** – bright outdoor lights

Pg 130 **state line** – border between states

Pg 130 **stumbling** – finding accidentally

Pg 131 **high beams** – car's headlights

Pg 131 **roof rack** – top of the truck

Pg 131 **piercing** – breaking, penetrating

Pg 131 **idled in neutral** – ran but didn't move

Pg 131 **eased on and off the gas** – pushed the gas pedal (in the car, to make it move forward)

Pg 131 **scanned** – looked quickly at

Pg 131 **hunkered down** – hiding

Pg 131 **dropped the . . .** – put the car in reverse (to back up)

Chapter 17

Pg 132 **peeking** – looking out secretly

Pg 132 **held a finger to his lips** – a gesture that means "be quiet"

Pg 132 **trunk** – back of the car

Pg 133 **ghost, vampire** – imaginary scary things

Pg 134 **Serves me right** – I deserve it

Pg 134 **off-season** – when there are no games

Pg 134 **convinced her** – talked her into, persuaded her

Pg 135 **for good** – forever

Pg 135 **behind me** – in the past

Pg 135 **ashamed** – embarrassed

Pg 135 **screwed up** – made mistakes, failed

Chapter 18

Pg 137 **resign** – quit

Pg 137 **hit rock bottom** – experience the worst

Pg 137 **reliable informant** – dependable person who give the police information

Pg 137 **force** – the police force

Pg 137 **leaned on him** – used him

Pg 137 **deadbeat** – criminal

Pg 137 **skullcaps** – skin tight cap

Pg 137 **Philly blunts** – cigars

Pg 137 **homerless** – not hitting any home runs

Pg 138 **dumpsters** – large trash bins outside

Pg 138 **fished** – got

Pg 138 **What up, playa?** – What's going on, guy?

Pg 138 **homies** – friends

Pg 138 **wad** – bunch, roll

Pg 139 **down** – behind, losing

Pg 139 **gambling empire** – betting business

Pg 139 **run numbers** – bet

Pg 139 **back in the day** – a long time ago

Pg 139 **Rowdy** – nickname for Wade

Pg 139 **game fixed** – when a player intentionally loses a game in order to win money on a bet

Pg 139 **dude** – guy

Pg 139 **mascot** – a symbol of his baseball team

Pg 140 **his ass** – him

Pg 140 **plunked** – hit (with a baseball pitch)

Pg 140 **lost it** – got super angry

Pg 140 **charged the mound** – ran up to the mound (where the pitcher – Wade – was standing)

Pg 140 **insane** – crazy

Pg 140 **couldn't throw a strike to save his life** – couldn't pitch at all

Pg 140 **Wade had . . .** - Wade had the courage to do something like that

Pg 140 **He's got old . . .** – just skip this sentence

Pg 140 **Some birdies sing . . .** – he's asking for money in exchange for information about Wade

Pg 140 **drag** – inhale of his cigar

Pg 140 **put anything** - make a bet

Pg 141 **pressing** – tempting

Pg 141 **faked** – pretended

Pg 141 **bumping fists** – touching hands

Pg 141 **holler at your boy** – give me a call

Pg 141 **You bet** – sure

Pg 141 **pun** – play on words, joke

Pg 141 **Hold up** – Wait

Pg 141 **twenty to one** – betting odds

Pg 141 **Put me down** – I'll bet

Pg 141 **flicked** – threw away, flipped

Pg 141 **blared** – sounded loudly

Pg 141 **jingling** – shaking, moving

Chapter 19

Pg 142 **Jessica** – Brady's daughter

Pg 142 **mansion** – house

Pg 142 **foyer** – entryway

Pg 142 **pillars** – posts, tall columns

Pg 142 **showing off** – modeling

Pg 143 **Chili's** – a restaurant

Pg 143 **humid** – muggy, felt damp

Pg 143 **hosting** – having

Pg 143 **the company** – the companionship, someone to go with you

Pg 143 **Peace** – William Peace University

Pg 143 **wild** – happy

Pg 143 **NC** – North Carolina
Pg 143 **consider** – think about
Pg 144 **pager** – the square thing restaurants give you to notify you when your table is ready
Pg 144 **vibrated** – shook
Pg 144 **medium please** – medium well-done (cooked)
Pg 145 **narrator** – person telling the story
Pg 145 **boarding school** – a school that the students live at
Pg 145 **sighed** – exhaled, breathed out
Pg 145 **sleeve** – pocket (for the card)
Pg 147 **secure** – safe

Chapter 20

Pg 148 **scrubby** – little
Pg 148 **I-26** – a highway
Pg 148 **air force base** – military grounds
Pg 148 **shingles** – what a roof is made of
Pg 148 **radiating** – giving off
Pg 148 **white-hot** – super hot
Pg 148 **indication** – clue, sign
Pg 148 **shades/pulled** – curtains/closed
Pg 149 **stirred** – moved even a little
Pg 149 **instinctively** – naturally, without thinking
Pg 149 **Glock** – gun
Pg 149 **permed** – curled
Pg 149 **hose** – nylons (transparent leg coverings)
Pg 149 **godforsaken** – crappy, nasty
Pg 150 **scanned** – looked at quickly
Pg 150 **tidy** – neat, organized
Pg 150 **coffee table** – a long table
Pg 150 **bridge** – middle
Pg 150 **kneaded** – massaged, felt, rubbed

Pg 150 **bill** – the curved part that sticks out over the face
Pg 151 **murky** – cloudy, opaque, muddy
Pg 151 **pocketbook** – purse
Pg 151 **motes** – particles, little pieces of dust
Pg 151 **shaft/gap** – beam/opening
Pg 151 **pulled tight** – closed
Pg 151 **dislodged itself from** – came out of
Pg 152 **Nonsense** – I disagree
Pg 152 **linoleum** – flooring
Pg 152 **brewed/stale** – made/old
Pg 152 **permeated** – gotten into
Pg 152 **prankster** – joker
Pg 152 **clinked** – bumped
Pg 153 **betting woman** – woman who gambled
Pg 153 **first** – first base (a position in baseball)
Pg 153 **majors** – major league baseball
Pg 153 **shattered** – broken
Pg 153 **splattering** – spraying, covering
Pg 153 **The old man** – his father
Pg 153 **slammed** – closed loudly
Pg 153 **sputtering . . .** – barely starting
Pg 153 **ducks** – bends down
Pg 154 **catch up** – talk about old times
Pg 155 **stuffed down . . .** – in the couch/sofa
Pg 155 **shuffled** – walked slowly
Pg 155 **lefties** – left-handed players
Pg 155 **trophies** – awards
Pg 155 **crowned with . . .** – topped with tiny gold baseball players
Pg 155 **burgundy** – dark red
Pg 155 **take inventory of** – look at
Pg 155 **flitted** – moved quickly
Pg 156 **assessing** – evaluating, judging

Pg 156 **skirting** – going around

Pg 156 **drew** – came

Pg 156 **Louisville Slugger** – baseball bat

Pg 156 **nightstick** – a small wooden stick

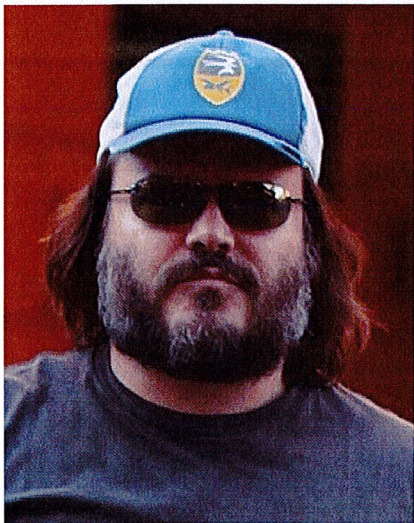
Pg 156 **batter's box** – where baseball players stand (on the field) to hit the ball

Pg 156 **caught sight of it** – saw it

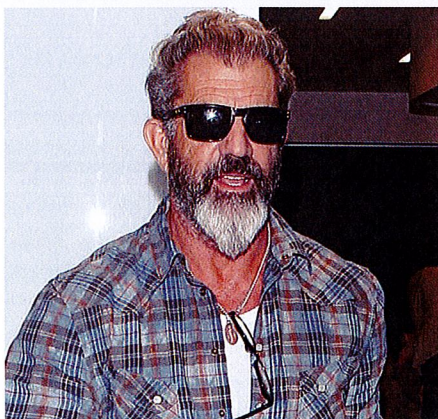
Pg 156 **split second** – fraction of a second

Pg 156 **decades** – a decade is ten years

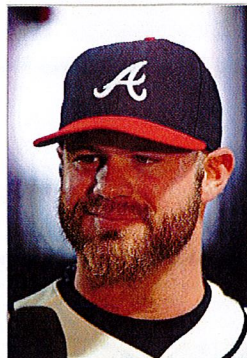
Pruitt, the man who wants to kill Wade



Lane Kelly, Wade's former boss who saw him take the money



Easter, Ruby, and Wade



Brady, Easter and Ruby's guardian



Wade's mom



Word List, *Dark Road*, pg. 158-191

Chapter 21

- Pg 159 **unclicked** – unlocked, opened
- Pg 159 **cracked** – opened
- Pg 159 **fuzzy** – blurry, unclear
- Pg 159 **no telling** – no way to know
- Pg 159 **turn his seat loose** – let go of his (bike) seat
- Pg 160 **drifted off** – went
- Pg 160 **flung** – thrown
- Pg 160 **yanking** – pulling hard
- Pg 160 **handle** – the car's door handle
- Pg 161 **smear** – covered
- Pg 161 **smacked** – hit
- Pg 161 **convenience store** – like 7-11
- Pg 161 **ladies' room** – women's restroom
- Pg 162 **tucked/overalls** – pushed/clothes
- Pg 162 **I swear** – I promise
- Pg 162 **fished** – pulled, gotten
- Pg 162 **turned me loose** – let me go
- Pg 162 **dead bolt** – a type of lock
- Pg 162 **tug** – pull
- Pg 162 **lighter** – cigarette lighter (flame)
- Pg 162 **hollered** – yelled, shouted
- Pg 162 **wadded up** – crunched
- Pg 163 **curb** – edge of the street
- Pg 163 **slammed** – closed loudly
- Pg 163 **register** – cash register (where you pay)
- Pg 164 **Waffle House** – restaurant
- Pg 164 **floorboard** – floor of the car
- Pg 165 **booth/inside** – table/by
- Pg 166 **bloodshot** – very red

- Pg 166 **tell who she was** – identify her
- Pg 166 **dizzy** – feeling like you're going to fall over
- Pg 166 **jukebox** – music machine
- Pg 167 **rattled** – jumped, moved
- Pg 167 **patty melt/hash browns** – hamburger with cheese/shredded and fried potatoes
- Pg 167 **waffles/cheese grits** – foods
- Pg 167 **smacking** – hitting
- Pg 167 **dents** – bumps
- Pg 168 **chilly** – cold
- Pg 168 **sleeping bag** – a zippered blanket for sleeping in tents or outside
- Pg 169 **grill** – the part of the restaurant where the food is cooked
- Pg 169 **asphalt** – parking lot

Chapter 22

- Pg 170 **paramedics** – medical people
- Pg 170 **coasted** – moved slowly, smoothly
- Pg 170 **bead** – drop
- Pg 170 **buzz cut** – men's short haircut
- Pg 170 **slapped** – smacked or hit (with his hand)
- Pg 171 **pad** – notebook (of paper)
- Pg 171 **breast** – shirt
- Pg 171 **scribbled** – wrote
- Pg 171 **spy** – see
- Pg 171 **gurney** – moveable bed (to carry Wade's mom out to the ambulance)
- Pg 171 **jotting** – writing
- Pg 172 **Glock/tucked** – gun/stuck
- Pg 172 **doctor's kit** – bag of drugs
- Pg 172 **syringes/vials** – needles/bottles
- Pg 172 **gearshift** – the P R N D part of a car
- Pg 172 **eased** – carefully moved
- Pg 172 **flipped** – pulled

Pg 172 **visor** – flat thing above the windshield that the driver can pull down to block the sun

Pg 172 **glove compartment** – small storage space on the dashboard in front of the passenger seat

Pg 172 **riffled** – quickly went

Pg 173 **weirdo** – strange man

Pg 173 **badge** – official police identification

Pg 173 **twenties** – twenty dollar bills

Pg 173 **scooped** – picked

Pg 173 **smacked** – hit

Chapter 23

Pg 175 **pulled into my spot** – parked my car

Pg 175 **cops** – police

Pg 175 **drag/flicked** – inhale/threw

Pg 175 **fished a pack** – found a package (of cigarettes)

Pg 176 **blunt force** – hard hit

Pg 176 **motive** – cause, reason

Pg 176 **break-in** – getting into a house without a key (by kicking in the door, breaking a window)

Pg 176 **prints** – fingerprints

Pg 176 **scene** – place of the crime

Pg 176 **ID** – identify, recognize

Pg 176 **blown-up** – large

Pg 177 **conspiracy theorist** – someone who believes unlikely stories

Pg 177 **in the loop** – updated, knowledgeable

Pg 177 **stubbed** – rubbed

Pg 177 **Feds** – federal police agents

Pg 177 **take off** – go

Pg 178 **play your way** – get your job back

Pg 177 **swoop** – drop, go

Pg 178 **the home** – the girls' foster home

Pg 177 **state line** – the state border

Pg 178 **the force** – the police force

Pg 178 **step on somebody's toes** – irritate someone, make someone angry

Pg 178 **getting in over your head** – getting into a problem that you can't get out of; doing something too difficult for you to handle

Pg 178 **charity** – gifts

Chapter 24

Pg 179 **college fair** – a free event to help high school students learn about colleges

Pg 179 **going to Peace** – attending Peace Univ.

Pg 179 **graduation party** – a party celebrating the end of high school

Pg 179 **.38** – gun

Pg 180 **cover his ass** – protect himself; make sure he didn't get in trouble (with police)

Pg 180 **pulsed** – vibrated, thumped

Pg 180 **no-man's land** – empty area

Pg 180 **grizzled-looking** – wild, hairy

Pg 180 **stools** – chairs, seats

Pg 180 **make out** – understand, hear

Pg 180 **Budweiser** – a brand of beer

Pg 180 **fished** – got, pulled

Pg 180 **register** – cash register

Pg 180 **dawned on me** – occurred to me; I realized

Pg 181 **sips** – drinks, swallows

Pg 181 **think better of it** – think more about his first decision, make a different decision

Pg 181 **Bud Light** – a brand of beer

Pg 181 **snubbed it out** – put the cigarette out

Pg 181 **A strip of light . . .** – Some light showed underneath the door

Pg 181 **dealership** – store

Pg 181 **faux-wood** – fake wood (cheap)

Pg 182 **made to** – started to

Pg 182 **out on the town** – hanging out

Pg 182 **dying to see you** – really want to see you

Pg 182 **stand-up guy** – good, responsible person (he's being sarcastic, of course!)

Pg 182 **We go back a long way** – we have a long history together

Pg 182 **catching himself** – stopping himself

Pg 183 **fidget** – move around a lot

Pg 183 **call him off** – stop him

Pg 183 **snorted** – made a grunting noise through his nose

Pg 183 **interlocked** – laced together, connected

Pg 183 **bulging** – fat

Pg 183 **kept on** – continued laughing

Pg 183 **slammed** – pushed (hard)

Pg 183 **pulled my .38** – pulled his gun out of his pocket (or somewhere)

Pg 183 **catch his breath** – breathe right (because he was so surprised and/or scared)

Pg 183 **spittle** – spit, saliva (from his mouth)

Pg 183 **piece** – gun

Pg 184 **in over your head** – in more trouble than you think

Pg 184 **tension** – stress, uneasiness, difficulty

Pg 184 **Rorschach test** – link spilled ink

Pg 184 **barrel** – the part of the gun that the bullet comes out of

Pg 184 **trembling** – weak, shaky

Pg 184 **bounces** – makes people who are fighting leave the bar (called: a bouncer)

Pg 185 **cracked** – hit

Pg 185 **spine** – back

Pg 185 **splayed** – spread out, pointed

Pg 185 **Your boy's** – Pruitt is

Pg 185 **butcher you** – cut you up into pieces

Pg 185 **convulsed** – shook

Pg 185 **muttered** – said quietly, unclearly

Pg 185 **make it out** – understand it

Pg 185 **pass out** – become unconscious (alive and breathing, but unable to talk, see, or think)

Pg 185 **turn him loose** – let him go

Pg 185 **crumpled** – fell in a heap

Pg 186 **trotting** – running

Pg 186 **dead in my tracks** – stop suddenly

Pg 186 **ESPN graphic** – sports TV station image

Pg 186 **break** – beat

Chapter 25

Pg 187 **Chevy Lumina** – car

Pg 187 **tailing** – following

Pg 187 **thugs** – strong men who beat people up

Pg 187 **paranoia** – imagination

Pg 187 **Gastonia proper** – within Gastonia

Pg 187 **military haircut** – very short hair

Pg 188 **hung back** – stayed back

Pg 188 **step out** – get out of the car

Pg 188 **sizing me up** – evaluating my size (deciding whether he could beat me in a fight)

Pg 188 **ducked down** – bent down, bent over

Pg 188 **cylinder** – part of the gun with the bullets

Pg 189 **fan club** – group of friends (more sarcasm)

Pg 189 **security deposit** – money paid to the apartment landlord at the beginning of his lease, to ensure that no damage is done to the apartment

Pg 189 **Director Freeh** – the head of the FBI

Pg 189 **car keyed** – scraped with a key, taking the paint off

Pg 189 **recliner** – a comfortable, adjustable chair

Pg 189 **pad** – paper

Pg 189 **run into him** – meet him

Pg 189 **line of work** – type of work (police work)

Pg 189 **Gangsters** – criminals

Pg 189 **piece of work** – strange person

Pg 190 **cluttered patio** – messy backyard porch

Pg 190 **Law & Order** – a TV show about cops

Pg 190 **the station** - the police station

Pg 190 **do some stand-up** – be a comedian

Pg 190 **devoted** – dedicated, loving

Pg 190 **piss** – ruin (literally means urinate)

Pg 190 **bury you** – ruin you, ruin your career

Pg 190 **making fists** – squeezing tightly

Pg 191 **pull some shit** – do something

Pg 191 **You're in the way** – you are blocking this investigation, making it hard for us to do our jobs

Pg 191 **Weller** – Brady's last name

Pg 191 **waltz in** – come in (to the investigation)

Pg 191 **blow it** – ruin everything, mess up the investigation

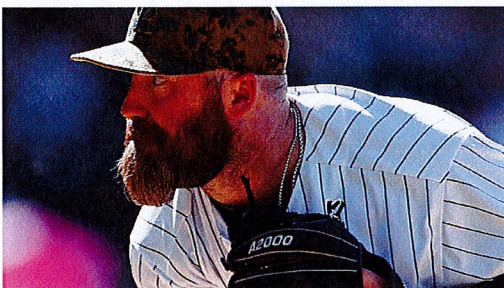
Pg 191 **In the way of what?** – What am I blocking?

Pg 191 **crank** – start

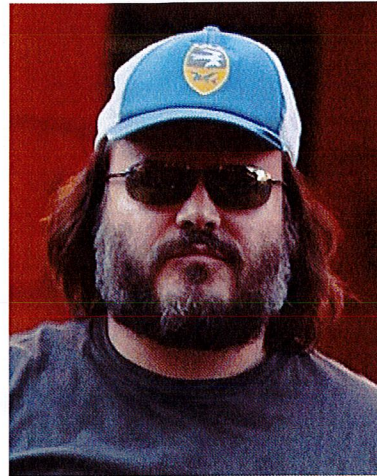
Easter and Ruby Quillby, sisters



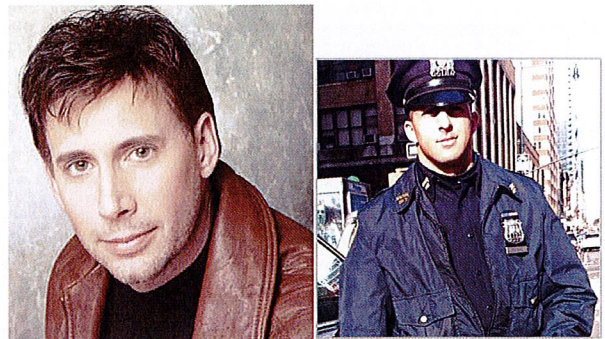
Wade Chesterfield, Easter and Ruby's dad



Pruitt, looking for Wade and hates him



Brady Weller, ex-cop, guardian for the girls (left). Sandy, Brady's former police partner (right)



Boss (Tommy Broughton), Wade stole his money (that he got through criminal activities)



Word List, *Dark Road*, pg. 192-end

Chapter 26

Pg 192 **rest stop** – place along the highway to park and/or use the bathroom (also called rest area)

Pg 192 **pulled around** – drove around

Pg 193 **guardrail** – safety fence

Pg 193 **fog** – air that is hard to see through

Pg 193 **hiked** – walked

Pg 193 **Blue Ridge Parkway** – a 469-mile highway through the Blue Ridge Mountains

Pg 193 **check out** – see

Pg 194 **antenna tower** – tower for TV and radio

Pg 194 **cupped** – curved

Pg 194 **Moses** – a Biblical character

Pg 194 **Promised Land** – a Biblical land where everything is wonderful, food is plentiful

Pg 194 **brochure** – information paper or booklet

Pg 194 **clear on** – all the way

Pg 195 **winked** – closed one eye quickly

Pg 195 **back roads** – smaller roads, often unpaved (dirt); not the highway

Pg 195 **long stretches** – long periods of time

Pg 195 **playing for** – playing baseball for

Pg 195 **fastball** – a type of pitch in baseball

Pg 196 **Cubs** – Chicago Cubs baseball team

Pg 196 **pop-ups** – a ball that is hit high in the air

Pg 196 **tie Maris' record** – equal 1960's baseball player, Roger Maris' statistic for home runs

Pg 196 **home field** – the baseball stadium of the team he plays for (St. Louis Cardinals)

Pg 196 **know-how** – knowledge

Chapter 27

Pg 198 **Black & Mild** – cigarette

Pg 198 **your ass isn't** – you aren't

Pg 198 **offering plate** – dish for donations at a church

Pg 198 **fumbling** – messing up

Pg 198 **two thousand steep in the pot** – Brady's \$2,000 stay with Roc in the hopes of winning even more from the next baseball game

Pg 198 **wad** – bunch, roll

Pg 199 **breast pocket** – pocket on his shirt

Pg 199 **compact 9mm** – small gun

Pg 199 **run . . . past** – tell you

Pg 199 **dude** – guy, man

Pg 199 **took Wade down** – beat Wade up

Chapter 28

Pg 200 **calling me collect** – making me (the Boss) pay for the phone call

Pg 200 **terms of the deal** – the agreement we had

Pg 200 **cards aren't in your hands** – things aren't going your way; you're not in charge

Pg 201 **forty-dollar lot** – a parking lot that costs \$40 to park there for the game

Pg 201 **the first pitch** – the beginning of the game

Pg 201 **"61"** – McGwire's player number

Pg 201 **scalpers** – people who illegally sell tickets to the game for more than they paid

Pg 201 **littered** – were all over

Pg 201 **dugout, left field, etc.** – he's describing parts of the field that his seats (tickets) are near

Pg 201 **parking deck** – multi-level parking building

Pg 202 **grand** – thousand dollars

Pg 202 **standing room** – not a seat, just admission into the baseball stadium; he'll have to stand

Pg 202 **peeling crisp bills off the stack** – taking dollars off his stack of money

Pg 202 **Glock** – gun

Pg 202 **barrel** – round tube where the bullets come out

Pg 202 **buckled** – bent; no longer supported him

Pg 202 **sole** – bottom

Pg 202 **sternum** – chest bone, by the neck

Pg 202 **concrete** – cement; very hard

Pg 202 **heaving** – moving up and down

Pg 202 **wincing** – made a look of pain

Chapter 29

Pg 203 **overpass** – bridge

Pg 203 **jerseys** – shirts

Pg 203 **fussing at** – irritating

Pg 203 **snacks** – food

Pg 203 **sighed** – breathed out

Pg 204 **grabbed** – took

Pg 204 **ballpark** – baseball stadium

Pg 204 **interstate** – highway

Pg 204 **breeze** – wind

Pg 204 **Big Mac** – nickname for McGwire

Pg 204 **dash** – the inside front of the car

Pg 204 **floorboard** – floor of the car

Pg 205 **knock one out** – hit a ball out of the ballpark

Pg 205 **lineups** – players

Pg 205 **cheering** – yelling happily

Pg 205 **green outfield** – grass on the baseball field

Pg 205 **upper-deck** – second level

Pg 206 **an arm like mine** – a pitcher like me (whose arm could throw balls like mine)

Pg 206 **The Star-Spangled Banner** – the US national anthem (to start the game)

Pg 206 **whined** – complained

Pg 206 **warm-up swings** – practice batting

Pg 206 **nudging** – pushing her gently

Pg 206 **All the way down** – keep walking all the way down the steps to our seats (close to the field)

Pg 207 **Popped it up . . .** – didn't hit a home run

Pg 207 **McGwire stepped into the batter's box** – McGwire got ready to bat

Pg 207 **set his feet . . .** – waited for the pitch

Pg 207 **tide** – ocean water

Pg 207 **a ball** – not a good pitch to hit

Pg 207 **cracked** – flew with a loud bang

Pg 208 **backing toward the wall** – running backward towards the edge of the field trying to catch the ball that McGwire hit

Pg 208 **all of a sudden** – suddenly

Pg 208 **watching Mark McGwire as he rounded** – watching McGwire run around all four of the bases after hitting his home run

Pg 208 **huge screen** – the large TV at the stadium

Chapter 30

Pg 209 **locked** – stuck, fixed

Pg 209 **Jumbotron** – the large TV in the stadium

Pg 209 **mug shot** – the photo taken by the police when you are first arrested

Pg 209 **In slow motion . . .** – Brady watches a replay of McGwire's home run on the large TV in the stadium. He sees Wade trying to catch the ball.

Pg 209 **binoculars** – special glasses to see things that are very far away

Pg 209 **pounded** – ran heavily

Pg 209 **concourse tunnel** – the part of the stadium behind the seats (usually where the food is sold)

Pg 210 **get my bearings** – find where I was

Chapter 31

Pg 211 **stands** – seats, bleachers

Pg 211 **roar** – loud noise (from the fans)

Pg 211 **hammered the cement** – slapped the ground

Pg 211 **cradled** – held

Pg 211 **work itself free** – come loose, fall out

Pg 211 **ducking** – turning quickly, hiding

Pg 211 **bearing down** – catching up

Pg 211 **first stall** – the first toilet

Pg 211 **surged** – swept, raced

Pg 211 **trickling** – dripping

Pg 212 **stall** – the enclosed area with a toilet

Pg 212 **squeeze past** – get by

Pg 212 **squirmed** – moved

Pg 212 **bank** – group

Pg 212 **thrashed** – moved

Pg 212 **go slack** – become limp, lifeless

Pg 212 **eye sockets** – the space that your eye sits in; eyeballs

Pg 212 **clawing** – scratching, digging

Pg 212 **concrete** – cement floor

Pg 212 **turned him loose** – let go of him

Pg 212 **sweep the floor** – feel around the floor (for his sunglasses)

Pg 212 **grabbed hold of** – held

Pg 212 **trigger** – the part of a gun that makes it shoot

Pg 212 **squeezed off a round** – shot the gun

Pg 212 **It skipped off** – The bullet bounced off

Pg 212 **ricocheted** – bounced crazily

Pg 212 **deafening** – so loud it made his ears unable to hear

Pg 213 **echoed** – could be heard

Pg 213 **fist crushed a jaw** – I punched someone in the face (mouth)

Pg 213 **my shoulders squared to** – I faced

Pg 213 **vests** – shirts without sleeves

Pg 213 **scan** – look all over

Pg 213 **Mace** – a chemical spray that burns the eyes

Pg 213 **echo** – sound

Chapter 32

Pg 214 **tunnel** – entrance

Pg 214 **was fixing to** – was going to (start crying)

Chapter 33

Pg 215 **gone** – been

Pg 215 **armored car heist** – theft of a truck carrying lots of money

Pg 215 **live feeds** – live cameras

Pg 215 **around the clock** – all day and all night

Pg 215 **chunks of drywall** – pieces of the wall

Pg 215 **weighted down** – at the bottom of the river because he had weights (rocks or something) to make sure he sank to the bottom

Pg 215 **cough him up** – reveal where he was (the missing driver of the armored car)

Pg 215 **hard enough** – mean enough

Pg 216 **digging** – finding out more information

Pg 216 **their heads didn't . . .** – the girls didn't go to bed until I installed an alarm system

Pg 216 **courtesy** – thanks to (for free)

Pg 216 **kicked . . . into overdrive** – made them act quickly

Pg 216 **Once the dust settled** – after everything calmed down; after everything was taken care of

Pg 216 **accounted for** – known

Pg 216 **caller ID** – the phone number showing on Brady's phone

Pg 216 **area code** – first three digits of a phone number

Pg 217 **caught me off guard** – surprised me

Pg 217 **tolling** – ringing, sounding, playing

Pg 217 **bells** – church bells

Pg 217 **connection/fade** – phone line/go away

Pg 217 **static** – noise (so that he couldn't hear Wade)

Pg 218 **chiming** – ringing, sounding, playing

Pg 218 **picked up** – answered (the phone)

Pg 218 **second chances** – another chance; forgiveness

Pg 218 **make the call** – make the decision; be the one to decide

Chapter 34

Pg 219 **line up** – get in line; queue up

Pg 219 **in a second** – soon

Pg 220 **principal** – the head of the school

Pg 220 **buckled herself in** – fastened her safety belt

Pg 220 **up front** – in the front seat

Pg 220 **copilot** – navigator

Pg 220 **Dairy Queen** – ice cream shop

Pg 221 **blinker** – turn signal (on the car)

Pg 221 **Aside from** – Except for

Pg 222 **slam shut** – close

Pg 222 **tank top** – sleeveless shirt

Pg 222 **portable** – mobile

Pg 223 **A bunch of** – some

Pg 223 **courts** – basketball areas

Pg 223 **shooting** – playing

Pg 223 **hollering** – yelling

Pg 223 **cops** – police

Pg 223 **merry-go-round** – a ride on the playground that spins in circles

Pg 224 **bars** – places to hold on

Pg 225 **creek** – stream, water

Pg 225 **lap** – legs

Pg 225 **hollered** – yelled

Pg 226 **blur** – haze, unclearly

Pg 226 **just make out** – barely see

Chapter 35

Pg 227 **fussing over us** – take extra good care of us

Pg 228 **be somebody** – be famous

Pg 228 **Anchorage** – city in Alaska

Pg 228 **at home** – welcome

Pg 228 **once upon a time** – a long time ago'

Pg 229 **suited him just fine** – been good enough for him; pleased him

Pg 229 **few towns over** – a few towns away from here

Pg 229 **tissue paper** – thin paper in gift boxes

Pg 229 **overalls** – clothes

Pg 230 **tipping his hat** – waving his hat (acknowledging the crowd)